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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): VERITAS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LTD. [IL/IL]; P.O. Box 6086, 84160 Beer Sheva (IL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): KAFRI, Oded [IL/IL]; Ehud Street 3, 84160 Beer Sheva (IL).

(74) Agent: EITAN, PEARL, LATZER & COHEN-ZEDEK; Gav Yam Center 2, Shenkar Street 7, 46725 Herzlia (IL).

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Published

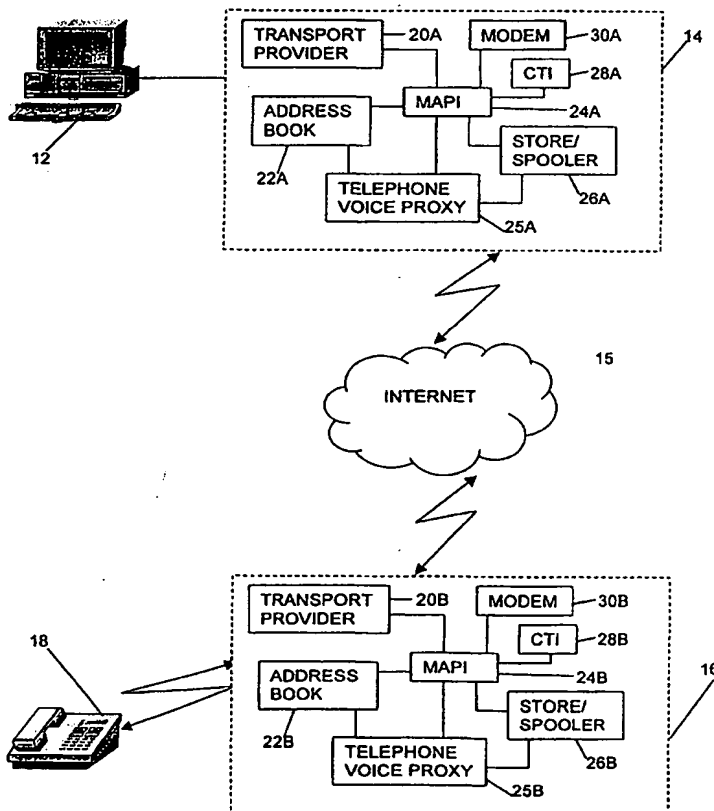
With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: A METHOD OF SENDING AND FORWARDING E-MAIL MESSAGES TO A TELEPHONE

(57) Abstract

A method of sending an e-mail message from a computer (12) to a telephone (18) is provided. The method includes the steps of preparing the e-mail message and attaching forwarding information of at least one addressee thereto, the forwarding information including at least the e-mail address of a remote proxy server (16); sending the e-mail message via the Internet (15) to the remote proxy server's e-mail address; the remote proxy server (16) ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee; and forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to the telephone number.



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A METHOD OF SENDING AND FORWARDING E-MAIL MESSAGES TO A TELEPHONE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method of sending voice messages
5 between remotely located telephones and text messages as voice messages
from a computer to remotely located telephones, utilizing e-mail properties.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Forwarding of e-mail to a fax is well known and an example can be seen
in the functions of software such as Microsoft's "Outlook" application. Forwarding
10 of e-mail to a telephone is also known, such as the Mailpush service provided by
several cellular telephone companies, for example, as described on their web site
(<http://www.mailpush.com>). In this method a server computer checks the e-mail
box of each registered client and forwards the e-mail to the mailbox owner's
telephone and reads the text through the voice modem or CTI card (for example
15 Dialogic's Proline/2V or Dialogic/4, Dialogic Corporation, 1115 Route Ten,
Parsippany, N.J. 070-4596, USA).

A voice message can be transmitted as an attached wave file that can
be played to the telephone directly, or be converted to text using a Speech-to-text
engine such as commercially available from IBM and Lernout & Hauspie). The
20 receiver of the e-mail can record a reply wave file through the telephone and use
the reply function of the e-mail software to send a reply via the telephone.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a method of sending messages, via the internet, originating from a text file, prepared on a computer, to a remotely located telephone as a voice message. The present invention also
5 provides a method of sending and receiving voice messages between remotely located telephones.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a method of sending and receiving voice messages, as well as faxes, between telephones which are at remote locations, which overcomes the limitations and disadvantages
10 of prior art devices.

The invention utilizes e-mail properties for forwarding faxes and e-mails for forwarding voice messages to a telephone. In one embodiment, an e-mail is sent to a remote station and automatically forwarded to a telephone or a fax machine, as desired by the sender.

15 There is thus provided in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a method of sending an e-mail message from a computer to a telephone. The method includes the steps of:

preparing the e-mail message and attaching forwarding information of at least one addressee thereto, the forwarding information including at least the
20 e-mail address of a remote proxy server;

sending the e-mail message via the Internet to the remote proxy server's e-mail address;

the remote proxy server ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee; and

forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to the telephone number.

Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the forwarding information contains a facsimile or telephone number.

5 Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of sending the e-mail message includes the steps of:

routing the e-mail message to a MAPI (Message Application Program Interface) Spooler located on a local proxy server coupled to the computer; and
converting the e-mail message to a voice message format.

10 Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the local proxy server includes a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card or a voice modem and the step of sending the e-mail message includes the step of the CTI card or the voice modem transmitting the voice message.

Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of ascertaining the addressee's telephone number includes the
15 step of:

looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up database table located at the remote proxy server, the look-up database table includes at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet
20 address.

Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of forwarding the email message as a voice message includes the step of:

verifying the sender's details; and

if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.

Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the step of forwarding the email message as a voice message includes the step of converting text messages to speech format.

5 Additionally, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the method further includes the steps of :

 recording the addressee's reply to the voice message as a wave file;

and

 transmitting the reply via the Internet to a Voice Proxy Message Store
10 Server located at the local proxy server.

 There is also provided in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a forwarder which includes means for extracting forwarding information from an incoming e-mail message, means for verifying the sender, and means for forwarding the voice message to the addressee of the forwarding
15 information.

 The forwarder further includes a look-up table containing at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

 Furthermore, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the forwarder further includes means for converting the e-mail message
20 to a voice message.

 Finally, there is also provided in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a method of forwarding an incoming message to a telephone. The message includes forwarding information of at least one addressee attached thereto. The method includes the steps of:

ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee; and
forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to the telephone
number.

The incoming message may be any one of a group including faxes,
5 telephone voice messages and text messages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the appended drawings in which:

5 Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of the inter-city communication system between remote locations, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

 Fig. 2 is a detailed schematic illustration of the Voice Proxy Servers used in the communication system of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration of a sample e-mail form for use with the system of Figs. 1 and 2; and

 Fig. 4/A; 4/B is a schematic flow chart illustration of the operation of sending and forwarding messages.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Reference is now made to Figs 1 and 2. Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of the inter-city communication system, generally designated 10, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 2 is a detailed schematic illustration of the Voice Proxy Servers used in the communication system 10.

As illustrated in the example of Fig. 1, inter-city communication system 10 comprises a computer user 12 located in city A who wishes to send a fax, or a voice message, to a telephone at an address 14 in city B, which is located at a long distance area code from city A. Instead of messages being sent from city A to city B via a long-distance carrier, an e-mail message is sent from computer user 12 via a local proxy server computer 14 connected to the computer, and via the Internet 15, to a remote proxy server computer 16 located in the local dialing code area of city B. The remote proxy server computer 16 forwards the received message to a telephone 18 or fax 19 in city B.

The local proxy server computer 14 and remote proxy server computer 16 comprise similar components, including a transport provider 20, address book 22, MAPI (Message Application Program Interface) Spooler 24, Voice Proxy Telephone Server 25, Voice Proxy Message Store 26 and a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card 28 or alternatively a voice modem 30. For clarity, in order to differentiate between the local proxy server computer 14 and the remote proxy server computer 16, each of these components are identified by either suffix a (for local proxy server computer 14) or suffix b (for remote proxy server computer 16).

Reference is now made to Fig. 3, which is a schematic illustration of a sample e-mail form, generally designated 32, for use with the inter-city

communication system 10. E-mail form 32 includes at least two addresses; the e-mail address 34 of remote proxy server computer 16 (city B) and the telephone (or fax) number of the addressee 36 in the locality of city B. In addition, the e-mail form 32 preferably includes details of the sender, such as name 38 and email address 40 and may also include a password 42 or any other means of restricting regular senders from using this service, and any other additional information, such as the time frame (T1 to T2) during which the message should be sent 44, an alternative telephone (or fax) number 46 for the addressee, and any other details 48. It will be appreciated that the e-mail form 32 may be restricted to the amount of information which may be added.

When the remote proxy server computer 16 in City B receives the incoming message for an addressee, it checks whether the incoming e-mail contains any additional data such as a forwarding telephone (or fax) address, and whether the sender is an authorized user of the service and thus whether the e-mail message may be forwarded.

If the incoming message is authorized for onward delivery, the remote proxy server computer 16 activates a telephone call (a local call) to the addressee, receives the answer and sends a confirmation of receipt, via e-mail, back to local proxy server computer 14 in city A.

In a further embodiment of the invention, the remote proxy server computer 16 in city B utilizes its address book 22b, which is constructed to contain telephone numbers corresponding to internet addresses to call any telephone. Thus, the remote proxy server computer 16 may call the addressee based on the

database information within its address book 26b even if the incoming message is lacking this information.

It will be appreciated that the system is applicable to a network of remote stations call any of a network of remote receiving stations (B) which
5 handle the incoming e-mail traffic.

In a further embodiment of the invention, computers A and B may form part of a LAN or WAN network with the computer B acting as a proxy server for voice messages.

The operation of the service utilizing the Voice Proxy Server for sending
10 and forwarding messages is now described with reference to the flow chart diagram of Fig. 4.

The Client (sender) prepares the message on his computer, chooses recipients and sends the message with addressee details. (step 202).

The messages are routed to the MAPI (Message Application Program
15 Interface) Spooler 24a on the local proxy server computer 14 (step 204). The MAPI checks the addressee information and calls the corresponding transport provider 20a (step 206). In the case of a telephone address (T-Mail), the transport provider extracts the message from the MAPI message store and converts it to the Voice Proxy's own message format (step 208) and then makes a
20 connection to the Voice Proxy Message Store server 26a and sends the message through the Internet (step 210).

At the other end, after the new mail messages have arrived at the remote proxy server computer 16, the remote Voice Proxy's transport provider

20b connects to the Voice Proxy Message Store server 26b (step 220). Messages are stored in the MAPI receiving folder 24b (Inbox) (step 222).

The Voice Proxy Telephone server 25b connects to the Voice Proxy Message Store server 26b, checks the outgoing messages queue and gets
5 messages for each detected phone line (step 224).

Then the Voice Proxy Telephone server 25b extracts information regarding the phone destination (phone number) from the message's recipient table (step 226) checks whether the sender is an authorized user of the service and thus whether the e-mail message may be forwarded (step 228).

10 The Voice Proxy Telephone server 25b extracts the body of the message (plain text), text and any wave attachments (step 230), and initiates a phone call to the addressee (step 232).

Messages having Wave attachments are played through the wave device associated with TAPI (Telephone Application Program Interface) phone
15 line directly using a wave API (Application Program Interface). Alternatively for Text messages, the text is converted using a Text-to-Speech engine. The API (Application Program Interface) and Text-to-Speech engine may be any suitable commercially available known in the art product.

The addressee's reply to the wave file is then recorded (step 234) and a
20 reply message created with a wave attachment (step 236). The file is sent back to the Voice Proxy Message Store Server 26a of the originating local proxy server computer 14, which places this reply message in the appropriate mailbox (step 238).

In a further embodiment of the invention, fax messages and voice messages (via a telephone, for example) can be sent via the local proxy server and the Internet to the remote proxy server. In thus case, the local proxy server computer 14 which treats the telephone (or fax) message in a manner similar to
5 the addressee's reply to the wave file (steps 234 and 236), described hereinabove with respect to Fig. 4.

It will be further appreciated that the present invention is not limited by what has been described hereinabove and that numerous modifications, all of which fall within the scope of the present invention, exist. Rather the scope of the
10 invention is defined by the claims which follow:

CLAIMS

1. A method of sending an e-mail message from a computer to a telephone, comprising the steps of:

preparing the e-mail message and attaching forwarding
5 information of at least one addressee thereto, said forwarding
information including at least the e-mail address of a remote proxy
server;

sending the e-mail message via the Internet to said remote proxy
server's e-mail address;

10 said remote proxy server ascertaining the telephone number of
the at least one addressee; and

forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to said
telephone number.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said forwarding information
15 contains a facsimile or telephone number.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said step of sending the e-mail
message comprises the steps of:

routing the e-mail message to a MAPI (Message Application
Program Interface) Spooler located on a local proxy server coupled to
20 said computer; and

converting the e-mail message to a voice message format.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said local proxy server comprises a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card or a voice modem and wherein said step of sending the e-mail message comprises the step of:
said CTI card or said voice modem transmitting said voice
5 message.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of ascertaining the addressee's telephone number comprises the step of:
looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up
database table located at said remote proxy server, said look-up
10 database table comprising at least the addressee's telephone
number and the addressee's incoming internet address.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:
verifying the sender's details; and
15 if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:
converting text messages to speech format.
8. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising the steps of :
20 recording the addressee's reply to the voice message as a wave
file; and
transmitting the reply via the Internet to a Voice Proxy Message
Store Server located at said local proxy server.

9. A forwarder comprising:

means for extracting forwarding information from an incoming
e-mail message;

means for verifying the sender, and

5 means for forwarding said voice message to the addressee of _
said forwarding information.

10. A forwarder according to claim 9, further comprising:

a look-up table containing at least the addressee's telephone
number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

10 11. A forwarder according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for converting said e-mail message to a voice message.

12. A method of forwarding an incoming message to a telephone, said
message comprising forwarding information of at least one addressee
attached thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

15 ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee;
and

forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to said
telephone number.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of ascertaining the
20 addressee's telephone number comprises the step of:

looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up
database table located at said remote proxy server, said look-up

database table comprising at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

5 verifying the sender's details; and
 if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

 converting text messages to speech format.

10 16. A method according to claim 12, wherein said incoming message is any one of a group including faxes, telephone voice messages and text messages.

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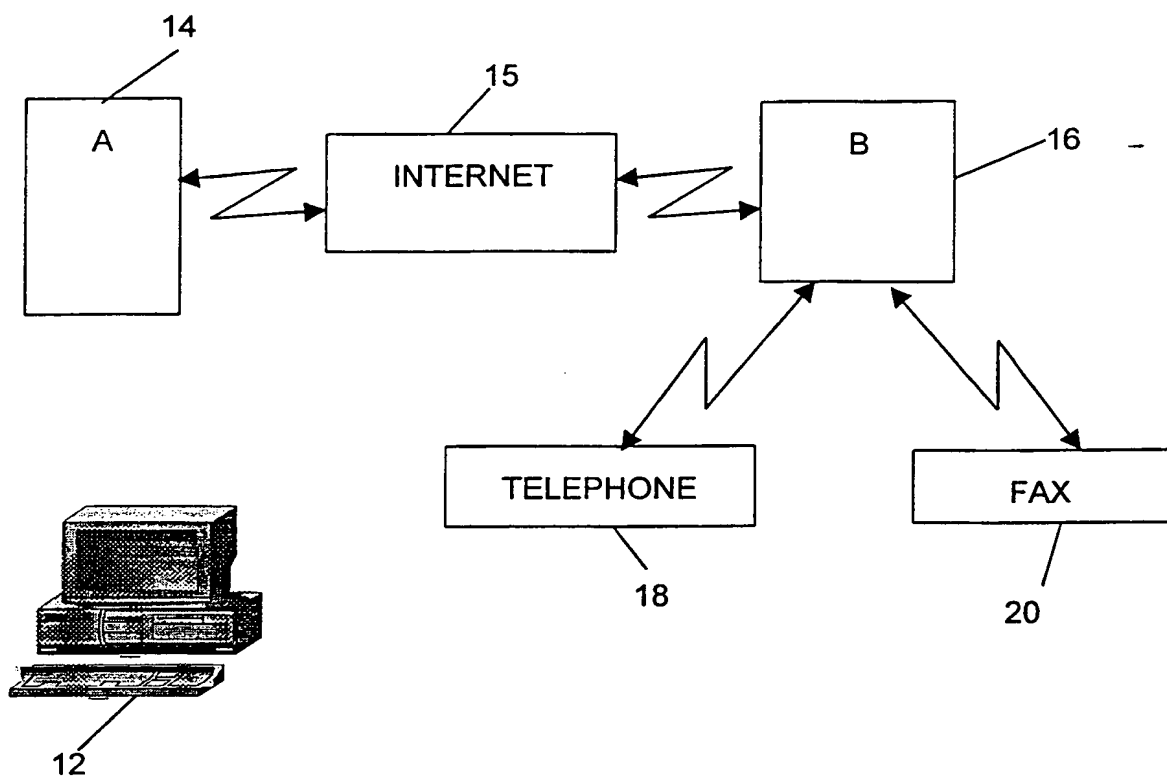


FIG. 1

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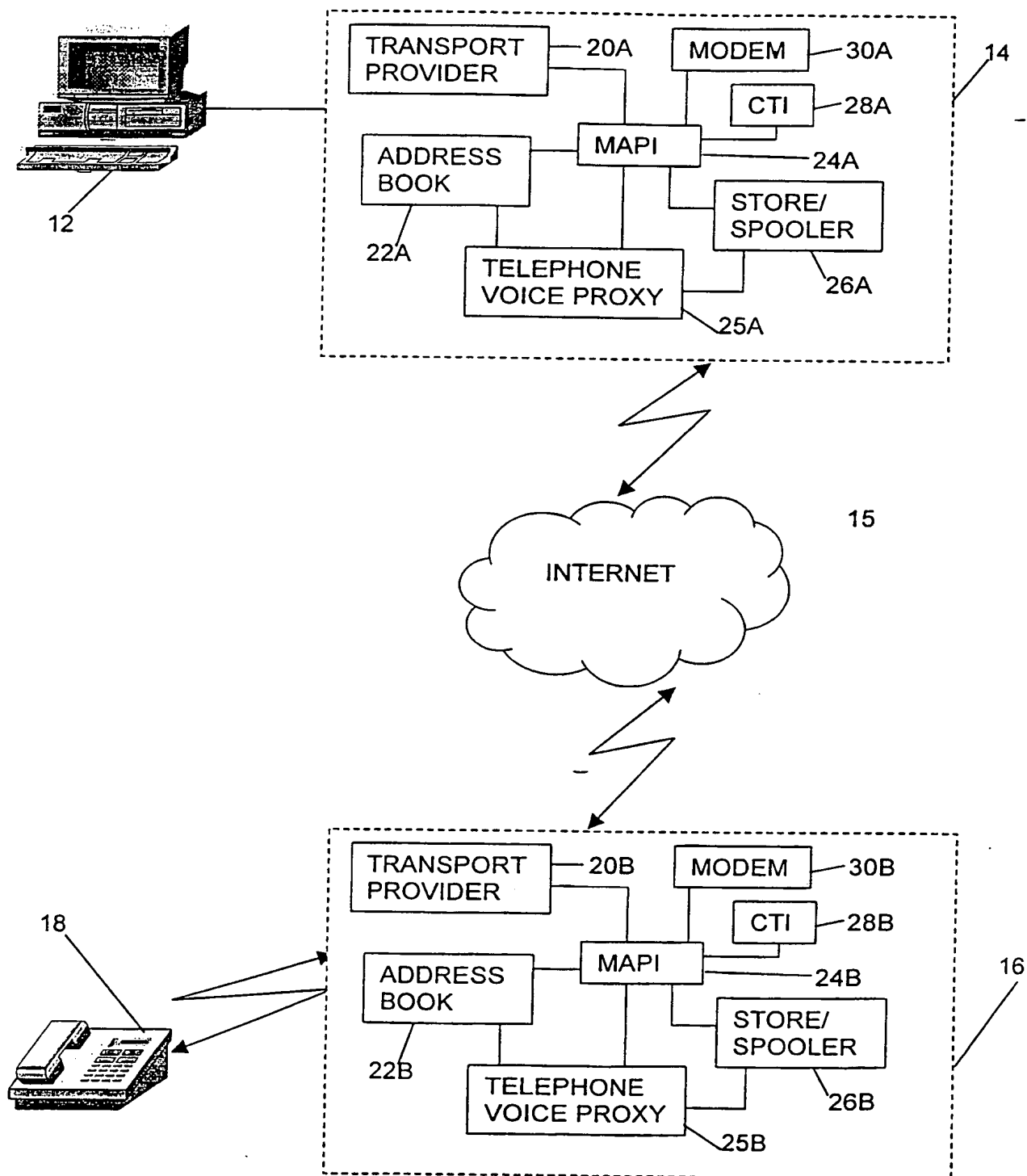


FIG. 2

3/5

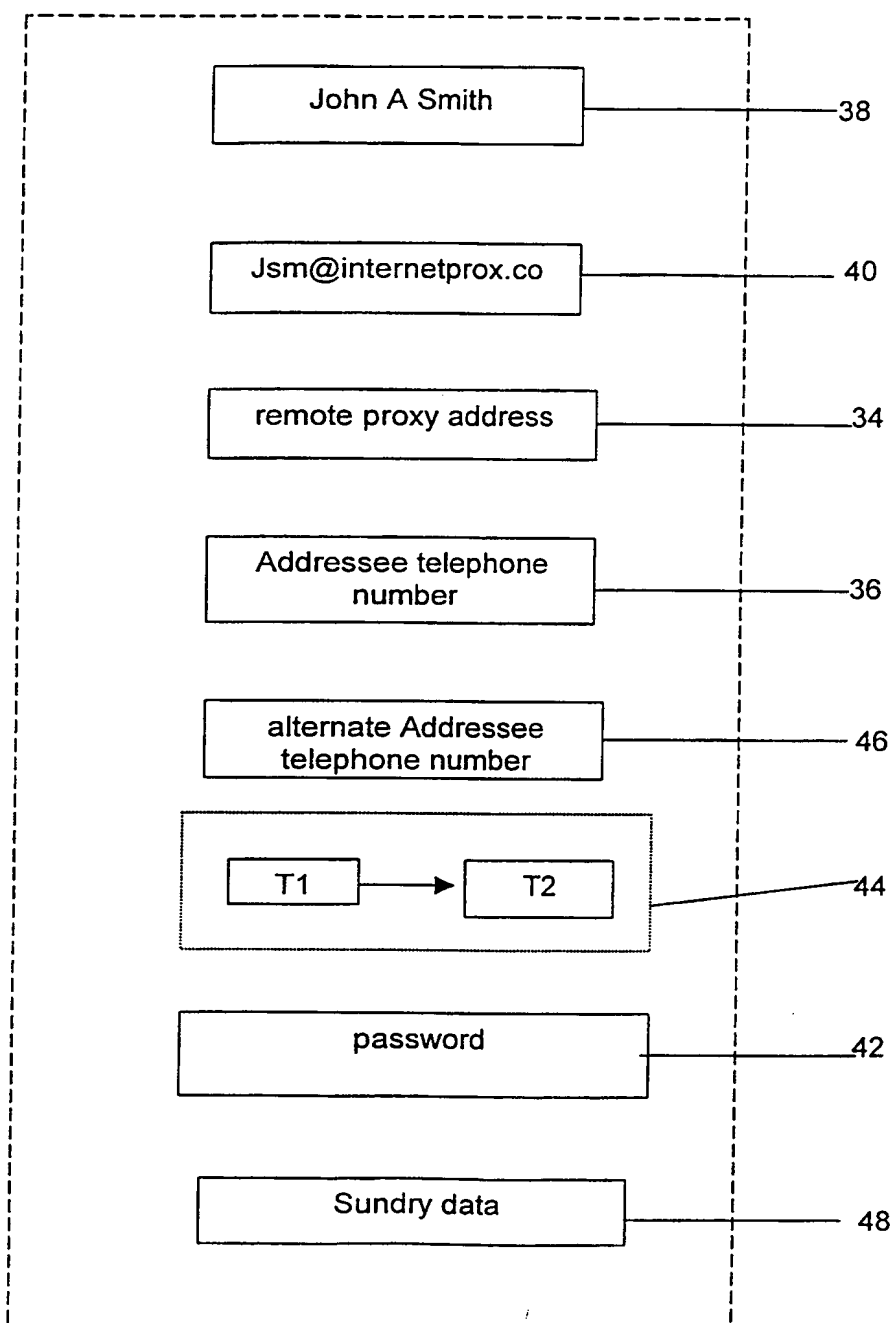


FIG. 3

4/5

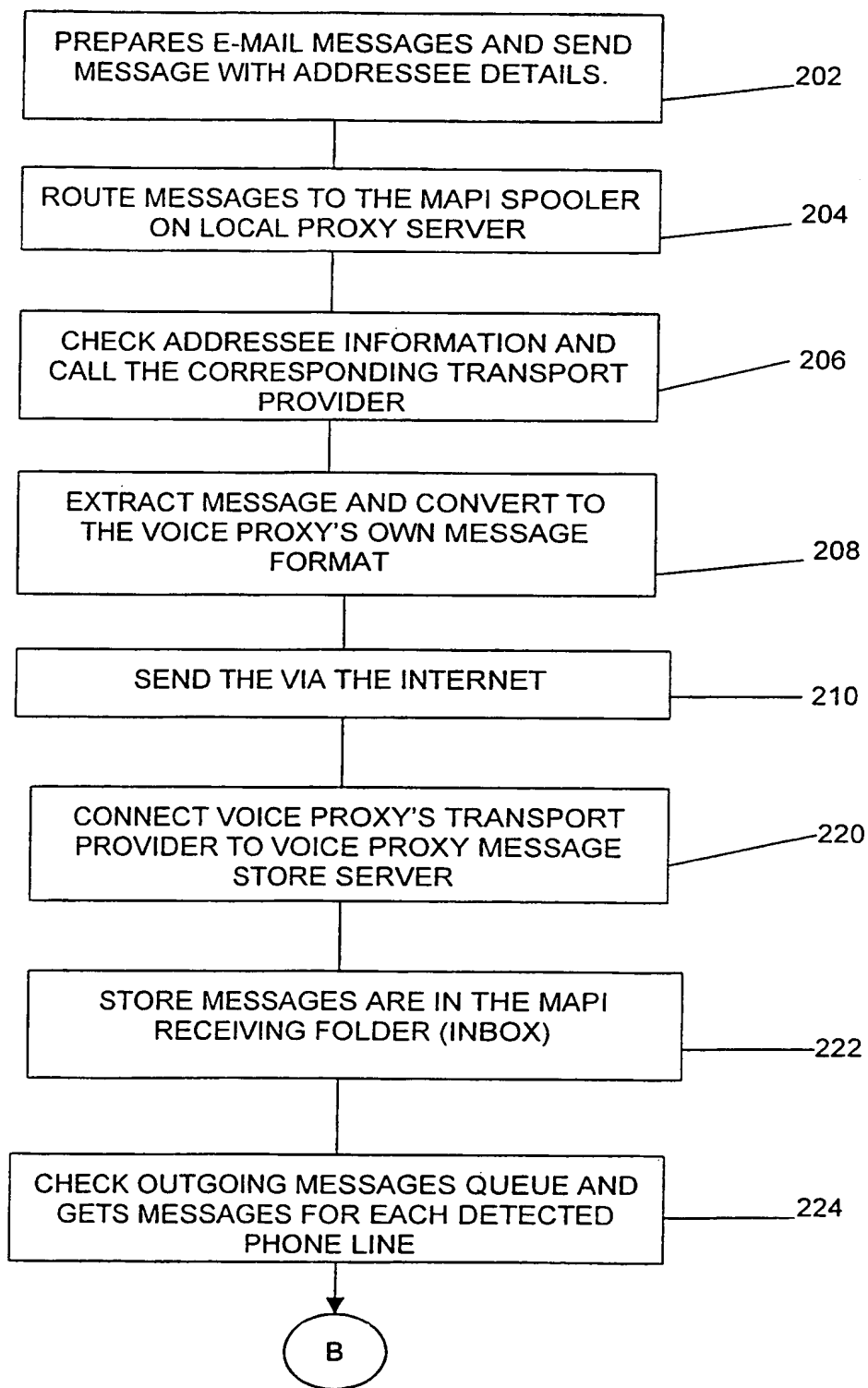


FIG. 4/A

5/5

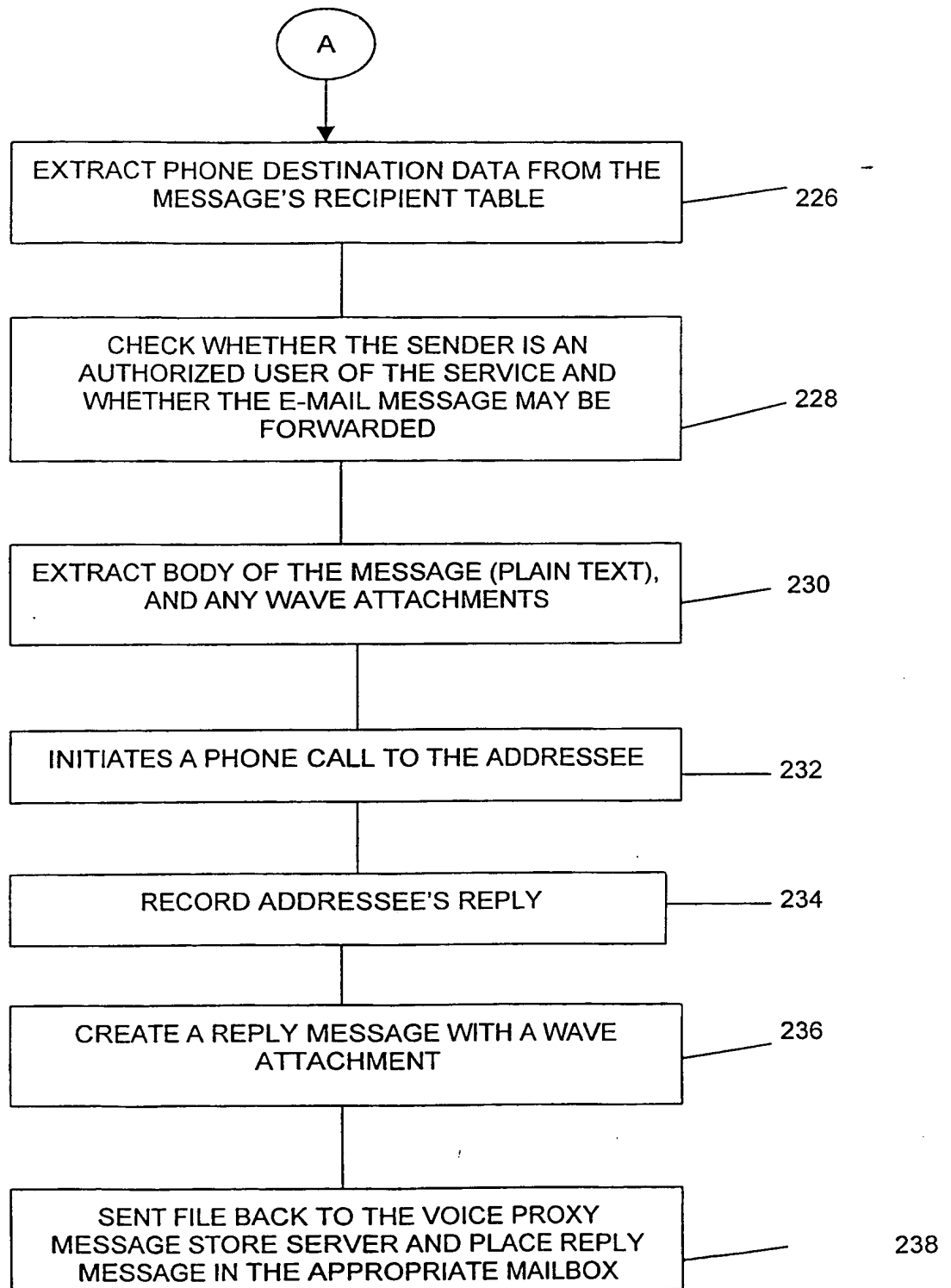


FIG. 4/B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IL99/00516

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : H04M 11/00

US CL : 379/100.08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 379/100.08, 88.13, 88.14, 88.17, 88.19, 93.02, 93.03, 93.15, 93.24, 100.13;

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,475,738 A (PENZIAS et al) 12 December 1995, col. 3 line 5 through col. 5 line 14.	1-16
Y	US 5,675,507 A (BOBO, II) 07 October 1997, col. 4 lines 29-40 and col. 6 lines 44-56.	1-16
Y, P	US 5,872,926 A (LEVAC et al) 16 February 1999, col. 2 lines 3-35.	1-16

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

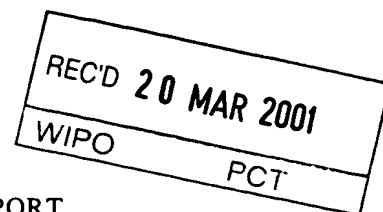
Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 JANUARY 2000	Date of mailing of the international search report 09 FEB 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer CURTIS KUNTZ <i>James R. Matthews</i> Telephone No. (703) 305-4708

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



14

Applicant's or agent's file reference P-1934-PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IL99/00516	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 SEPTEMBER 1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 SEPTEMBER 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): H04M 11/00 and US Cl.: 379/100.08		
Applicant VARICOM COMMUNICATIONS LTD.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 APRIL 2000	Date of completion of this report 08 FEBRUARY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer CURTIS KUNTZ <i>Rugenerio Zogan</i>
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 305-4708

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL99/00516

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application: ***☒ the international application as originally filed☒ the description:

pages 1-11 , as originally filed
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

☒ the claims:

pages 12-15 , as originally filed
pages NONE , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

☒ the drawings:

pages 1-5 , as originally filed
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

☒ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE , as originally filed
pages NONE , filed with the demand
pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☒ the description, pages NONE
☒ the claims, Nos. NONE
☒ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL99/00516

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-16</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-16 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Penzias (US PAT. 5,475,738) in view of Bobo, II (US PAT. 5,675,507 hereinafter Bobo).

Regarding claim 1, Penzias discloses a method for sending an e-mail message to a telephone comprising the steps of preparing the e-mail message, attaching forwarding information of at least one addressee thereto including e-mail address of a remote server, ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one address by the remote server and forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to the telephone number (col. 3 line 5 through col. 5 line 14). Penzias differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching to send the e-mail message via the Internet to the remote server. However, it is old and well known in the art of sending the e-mail message via the Internet, for example see Bobo (figure 1 and col. 6 lines 44-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Penzias in sending the e-mail message via the Internet to the remote server, as per teaching of Bobo, because it provides reliably and efficiently route messages to an intended recipient.

Regarding claim 2, Penzias discloses the forwarding information including a facsimile or telephone number (col. 4 lines 41-67).

Regarding claim 3, Penzias discloses the step of sending the e-mail message including the steps of routing the message to the remote server and converting the e-mail message to a voice message format (col. 5 lines 30-42).

Regarding claim 4, Penzias discloses the remote server comprising a voice modem to transmit the voice message (col. 5 lines 51-60).

Regarding claim 5, Penzias discloses the step of looking up the addressee's telephone number from a database located at the remote server (col. 4 lines 22-29 and 50-67).

Regarding claim 6, Bobo discloses to verify a user in order to forward the message (col. 7 lines 25-50).

Regarding claim 7, Penzias discloses to convert text message to speech format (col. 5 lines 38-42).

(Continued on Supplemental Sheet.)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL99/00516

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

V. 2. REASONED STATEMENTS - CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS (Continued):

Regarding claim 8, Bobo discloses the server for recording voice message via the Internet (abstract).

Regarding claim 9, Penzias discloses a forwarder comprising means for extracting forwarding information from an incoming e-mail message and means for forwarding the voice message to the addressee of the forwarding information (col. 3 line 63 through col. 4 line 67). Penzias differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching means for verifying the sender. However, Bobo discloses an authentication process for preventing to gain access of a system server (col. 7 lines 25-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Penzias in having means for verifying the sender, as per teaching of Bobo, because it provides a high security to prevent an unauthorized person to access the forwarder.

Regarding claim 10, the limitations of the claim lack inventive step as set forth in claim 5.

Regarding claim 11, the limitations of the claim lack inventive step as set forth in claim 7.

Regarding claim 12, the limitations of the claim lack inventive step as set forth in claim 1.

Regarding claim 13, the limitations of the claim lack inventive step as set forth in claim 5.

Regarding claim 14, the limitations of the claim lack inventive step as set forth in claim 6.

Regarding claim 15, the limitations of the claim lack inventive step as set forth in claim 7.

Regarding claim 16, Bobo discloses the incoming message is one of a group consisting of faxes, telephone voice messages and text messages (col. 6 lines 61-63).

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

NONE

PCT

**NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE**

(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

EITAN, PEARL, LATZER & COHEN-ZEDEK
Gav Yam Center 2
Shenkar Street 7
46725 Herzlia
ISRAËL

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 18 April 2000 (18.04.00)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference P-1934-PC	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/IL99/00516	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 September 1999 (28.09.99)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> the inventor <input type="checkbox"/> the agent <input type="checkbox"/> the common representative		
Name and Address VERITAS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LTD. P.O. Box 6086 84160 Beer Sheva Israel	State of Nationality IL	State of Residence IL
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	Teleprinter No.	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the name <input type="checkbox"/> the address <input type="checkbox"/> the nationality <input type="checkbox"/> the residence		
Name and Address VARICOM COMMUNICATIONS LTD. 37 She'erit Israel 68165 Tel-Aviv : Israel	State of Nationality IL	State of Residence IL
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	Teleprinter No.	
3. Further observations, if necessary: 		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the receiving Office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the International Searching Authority <input type="checkbox"/> the International Preliminary Examining Authority </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the designated Offices concerned <input type="checkbox"/> the elected Offices concerned <input type="checkbox"/> other: </div> </div>		

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Dominique DELMAS</div> Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS(PCT Rule 62 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 417)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as International Preliminary Examining Authority

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 31 May 2000 (31.05.00)	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 September 1999 (28.09.99)
International application No. PCT/IL99/00516	
Applicant VARICOM COMMUNICATIONS LTD. et al	

The International Bureau hereby informs the International Preliminary Examining Authority that no amendments under Article 19 have been received by the International Bureau (Administrative Instructions, Section 417).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Claudio Borton
Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38